

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/029,084	MASON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William C. Joyce	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the telephonic interview of 6/23/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-17.
3. The drawings filed on 21 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael B. Stewart on June 23, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claim 15, line 13, after "inner" examiner has deleted "tube";
- b. Claim 15, last line, after "respective" examiner has deleted "tube";
- c. Claim 15, last line, after "bearings" examiner has inserted --disposed between the inner periphery of said outer shaft and the outer periphery of said inner shaft, and within said outer tube shaft--;
- d. Claim 16, line 24, after "in" examiner has deleted "ball";
- e. Claim 16, line 31, after "inner" examiner has deleted "tube";
- f. Claim 16, line 31, after "respective" examiner has deleted "tube";
- g. Claim 16, last line, after "bearings" examiner has inserted --disposed between the inner periphery of said outer shaft and the outer periphery of said inner shaft, and within said outer tube shaft--;
- h. Claim 17, line 32, after "in" examiner has deleted "ball";
- i. Claim 17, line 41, after "inner" examiner has deleted "tube";
- j. Claim 17, line 42, after "respective" examiner has deleted "tube";

k. Claim 17, last line, after "bearings" examiner has inserted --disposed between the inner periphery of said outer shaft and the outer periphery of said inner shaft, and within said outer tube shaft--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach a continuously variable transmission as described by the claims. The prior art to Kohn (US Patent 1,459,979) teaches a similar transmission device (Fig. 3) having a pair of axially spaced cones (35,36), a countershaft (51), a pair of wheels (53) mounted on the counter shaft, wherein the countershaft is configured to pivot about a pivot axis. The prior art does not teach the cones supported on the claimed shaft arrangement, wherein an outer surface of one cone shaft is supported on an inner surface of the second cone shaft via a pilot bearing. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-5114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William C. Joyce 6/24/04
William C. Joyce